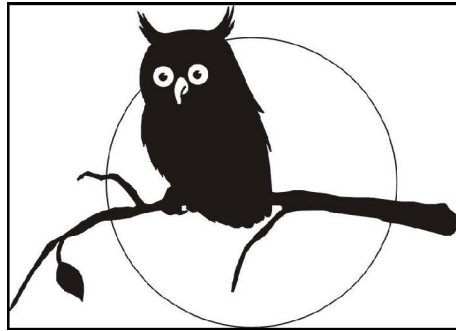


Homeless Watch 2005

A Snapshot Survey Of Homelessness in Nottinghamshire

19th September – 2nd October 2005



Mansfield District Council – Mini Report

HLG Resource Service
Mar 2006

Copies of this report are available on the Internet at
www.hlg.org.uk/homelesswatch.htm

1. Background

The Nottinghamshire Homeless Watch Survey 2005 is the second County wide snapshot survey of people who present as homeless during a two week period, which ran from the 19th September to the 2nd October 2005. The survey is co-ordinated by a steering group comprising representatives from the eight local authorities which make up the area, the Nottinghamshire Rural Community Council, the Supporting People Partnership For Nottinghamshire and Nottinghamshire County Council. Funding for the survey has been provided by the eight district authorities in the County and Nottinghamshire County Council's Social Services Department. The survey has been conducted on their behalf by HLG – a Nottinghamshire umbrella organisation for voluntary sector services working with homeless and other vulnerable people.

In addition to the main Homeless Watch report, which covers the results from the snapshot survey for the whole of Nottinghamshire, a series of eight mini reports have been produced, covering the main findings for the eight district authority areas in Nottinghamshire. The main report and the district reports are all available for download from the Homeless Watch website at www.hlg.org.uk/homelesswatch.htm.

For the purpose of these mini district reports, figures on the number of presentations and homeless people are calculated using a different methodology than has been used for the area analysis in the main Nottinghamshire wide Homeless Watch report. Figures in this mini report for Mansfield District Council are based on presentations by people who were either:

- a. Recorded by the Homeless Watch survey as receiving advice about their homelessness within the Mansfield area.
- b. Recorded as not seeking advice in Mansfield (i.e. they sought advice in another Nottinghamshire authority area), but were recorded as having a local connection with Mansfield. A local connection was defined as: family connection, residence in area for 6 of the last 12 months or 3 of the last 5 years, or employment in the area.

This methodology is consistent with that used in some of the district based homelessness snapshot surveys that have taken place in previous years, notably the regular annual surveys conducted in Ashfield.

2. Overall Numbers

248 presentations fitted the two categories detailed in the background section. However, there were a number of instances where the same person presented to more than one agency and if we exclude these duplicates, the actual number of individuals who were recorded during the Homeless Watch fortnight was 226. In addition, there were 65 dependent children recorded as being part of a presenting household – again this figure is calculated after removing any duplicates and any situations where both members of a couple have had their children recorded. Duplicates are identified by matching initials, gender and date of birth information from the presenting adults.

Table One: Homeless People In Mansfield, Or With A Local Connection To The Area

Category	Number Adjusted Figure To Take Account Of Duplicate Presentations
Adults	226
Children	65
Total	291

3. Gender

The percentage of men at 65% was higher than was recorded for Nottinghamshire as a whole which equated to 57%.

Table Two: Gender

Gender	Number	%
Male	147	65
Female	68	30
Not stated	11	5
Total	226	100

4. Age

The figures show the age profile of people who presented as homeless. Of those cases where an age has been supplied 54% are aged over 25. In common with the County wide findings, although the majority of people were men, among 16 and 17 year olds the majority were women.

Table Three: Age

Age Range	Male	Female	Gender Not Stated	Total
16 & 17 Years old	11	20	1	32
18 - 24 Years Old	36	24	3	63
25 – 40 Years Old	70	11	4	85
41 - 59 Years Old	16	6	0	22
60 years old and over	2	1	0	3
No Date Of Birth Supplied	12	6	3	21
Total	147	68	11	226

5. Ethnic Origin

Table four shows the ethnic origin of Mansfield cases. The table excludes cases where duplicate presentations have been made and also excludes those cases where no ethnic origin data was supplied. Using this method enables comparison with the ethnic profile for Mansfield as recorded by the 2001 UK Census. The census found that 3.1% of the local population were from a non White: British ethnic origin, whereas the percentage recorded by the Homeless Watch survey was 6.5%, suggesting that people from black

and minority ethnic communities are over-represented among people who are homeless. However, making firm statements about over-representation among specific ethnic groups is problematic, due to the low actual numbers which have been recorded.

Table Four: Ethnic Origin

Ethnic Origin	Number	Percentage
White: British	201	93.5
White: Irish	6	2.8
Mixed: White & Black Caribbean	3	1.4
Black/Black British: Caribbean	2	0.9
Chinese	1	0.5
Asian/Asian British: Other	1	0.5
Asian/Asian British: Indian	1	0.5
Total	215	100

6. Household Type

There are some inconsistencies in the data recorded by agencies, because there are different household types recorded for the same person. This makes it difficult to remove any duplicates from the household types and therefore the figures shown are for the full 248 presentations. Compared to the household type breakdown for Nottinghamshire, the figures for Mansfield are very similar, although the percentage of single parents at 10% is lower than the 13% recorded for Nottinghamshire.

Table Five: Household Type

Household Type	Number	Percentage - Mansfield	Percentage Across Nottinghamshire
Single Person (No Children)	191	77	77
Single Parent With Children	26	10	13
Childless Couple	14	6	5
Couple With Children	10	4	4
Not Stated	7	3	1
Total	248	100	100

7. Children

A total of 65 dependent children were recorded within the data for Mansfield (see table six on the next page). This figure has been adjusted to take account of duplicate presentations and any cases where both members of a couple presented and details about their children were recorded twice.

Table Six: Age & Number Of Dependent Children

Age Of Children	Number Of Children In this Age Range
0 - 4 Years Old	26
5 -10 Years Old	20
11 – 15 Years Old	14
16 & 17 Years Old	2
18 years old and over	3
Total	65

8. Care Leavers

38 people are recorded as having been in the care of the local authority as a young person. This figure takes account of duplicate presentations by care leavers and equates to 17% of the individuals who presented as homeless.

Table Seven: Age Of Care Leavers

Age	Number Of This Age With Care History
16 & 17 Years Old	10
18 - 21 Years Old	8
22 and over	17
No Date Of Birth Provided	3
Total	38

9. Presenting Support Needs

Table eight records the support needs of people who presented during the survey fortnight. As different data is recorded by agencies for different presentations by the same person, these figures are based on the full 248 presentations rather than the 226 individuals. The two percentage columns show the percentage of presentations (i.e. 248 presentations for Mansfield and 1187 for Nottinghamshire) where this support need was identified.

Please note that people could record more than one support need, which is why the total in table eight is greater than the number of presentations. A separate question that asked whether a person had any support needs shows that for 45 presentations (18%) the person specifically recorded that they had no support needs.

As can be seen from table eight, the support needs of those in, or connected to, Mansfield vary in some respects from the figures for the whole of Nottinghamshire. The proportion of people requesting support due to drug abuse, offending behaviour and learning difficulties is higher than for Nottinghamshire, but lower than the County with regards to mental health, alcohol abuse and domestic violence.

Table Eight: Support Needs

Support Needs	Number	Percentage Of Presentations - Mansfield	Percentage - Nottinghamshire
Drug Abuse	100	40	32
Ex-Offender	65	26	23
Learning Difficulties	29	12	8
Mental Health	28	11	17
Alcohol Abuse	27	11	18
Other	19	8	11
Domestic Violence	13	5	10
Physically Disabled	7	3	4
Total	288	N/A	N/A

10. Previous Night

As the place where a person was staying the previous night could change during the course of the two week survey period, the figures shown in table nine are for all 248 presentations, rather than the 226 individuals who were homeless. In percentage terms, the figures for Mansfield differ from the findings for the County as a whole. The percentage of rough sleepers is the highest rate for any area in the County at 42% and is notably higher than the 27% recorded for Nottinghamshire (including the City). Within the overall figure of 104 rough sleeper presentations, 83 of these presentations were to Mansfield based agencies, with the remaining 21 elsewhere in the County, including 15 presentations to agencies in Nottingham City. It is important to remember that these figures are for presentations over a two week period and, as already been noted, there are some duplicate presentations amongst the Mansfield data. If we exclude duplicate presentations where a person's circumstances are the same for each of their presentations, and those cases where people with a local connection with Mansfield sought advice in another local authority area, this shows that 79 individuals were recorded as rough sleeping the night prior to contacting an agency in Mansfield.

Table Nine: Previous Night's Accommodation

Where Person Spent The Previous Night	Number	Percentage – Mansfield	Percentage- Nottinghamshire
Slept Rough	104	42	27
Friend's Home	45	18	24
Own Home	19	8	9
Hostel	18	7	7
Parents' Home	12	5	10
B&B Lodgings	9	4	2
Other Relative's Home	8	3	6
Emergency Bed	4	2	1
Custody	3	1	1
Partner's Home	3	1	2
Social Services	3	1	1
Hospital	1	0	1
Grandparents' Home	1	0	1
Other	9	4	4
Not Stated	9	4	3
Total	248	100	N/A

11. Profile Of Rough Sleeping

Agencies were asked to record whether people sleeping rough were sleeping in the open air, or in a building or structure not designed for human habitation. These categories are based on a definition of rough sleeping used by the Office Of The Deputy Prime Minister. As a person's circumstances may change over the two week survey period, the figures are based on all the presentations by rough sleepers, not the actual number of individuals recorded as sleeping rough. The figures show that most rough sleepers in the area (or with a connection to Mansfield) are sleeping in the open air, although it should be noted that no data has been supplied in some cases. If we exclude those cases where no data has been supplied, this shows that 55% of rough sleepers are recorded as sleeping in the open air, compared to 64% for the whole of Nottinghamshire.

Table Ten: Type Of Rough Sleeping

Slept Rough Type	Number	Percentage – Mansfield	Percentage - Nottinghamshire
Sleeping In Open Air	52	50	55
Building/Structure Not For Habitation	42	40	30
Don't Know/Not Stated	10	10	15
Total	104	100	100

Agencies were also asked to record the approximate amount of time that a person had been rough sleeping. A summary of this data is shown in table eleven. In Nottinghamshire 53% of those rough sleeping were recorded as doing so for longer than one month, whereas for Mansfield this percentage is higher at 62%. The percentage for those people rough sleeping for more than twelve months is also higher at 21% than for

the County, which recorded 14%. It should be noted that there are some discrepancies in the data on time spent rough sleeping, with different agencies recording different periods for the same person. Given this, the data in table eleven should be treated as a broad indicator of the duration of rough sleeping.

Table Eleven: Time Spent Rough Sleeping

Time Rough Sleeping	Number In This Category	Percentage - Mansfield	Percentage - Nottinghamshire
1 night	7	7	7
More than a night up to 1 week	15	14	17
More than 1 week and up to 1 month	12	12	16
More than 1 mth and up to 3 mths	21	20	21
More Than 3 mths and up to 6 mths	7	7	9
More Than 6 mths and up to 12 mths	15	14	9
More than 12 mths	22	21	14
Not Stated	5	5	7
Total	104	100	100

12. Comparison Of Previous & Coming Nights Accommodation.

Agencies were asked to record details of where a person was likely to spend the coming night. Table twelve on the next page summarises these responses and enables comparison between where people spent the previous night, with information about their likely accommodation circumstances the night after contact with an agency.

The figures for rough sleeping show 79% of those recorded as rough sleeping were expected to still be rough sleeping the coming night. Although this reduction of 21% is welcome, the gains are partly offset by 12 people who are expected to be rough sleeping the night after contact with an agency, but spent the previous night in different accommodation circumstances. Of these 12 people, 5 spent the previous night with friends.

Table Twelve: Comparison of Previous & Coming Nights Accommodation

		Where Person Is Sleeping the Night Following Contact With An Agency															
		B&B Lodgings	Custody	Emergency Bed	Friends Home	Grandparents	Hospital	Hostel	Other Relative	Own Home	Parents Home	Partner's Home	Sleeping Rough	Social Services	Other	No Data Supplied	Totals
Where Person Slept The Night Prior To Seeing Agency For Advice	B&B Lodgings	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	9	
	Custody	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	3	
	Emergency Bed	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	4	
	Friend's Home	0	0	0	34	0	0	1	2	0	2	0	5	0	0	1	45
	Grandparents	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	Hospital	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
	Hostel	1	0	0	0	0	0	15	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	18
	Other Relative	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	8
	Own Home	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	14	1	0	0	0	0	1	19
	Parents' Home	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	9	0	0	0	0	2	12
	Partner's Home	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	3
	Sleeping Rough	2	0	1	5	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	82	0	1	9	104
	Social Services	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	3
	Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	1	1	0	4	0	9
	No Data Supplied	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	5	9
Totals:	13	0	3	40	1	0	26	9	15	14	2	94	2	8	21		